(vi) A report from other Development Commissioners as to whether any case under EOU/SEZ Scheme in regard to diversion of goods etc. is pending.

Wherever necessary, these are vertified through personal interview with the promoters of the project. In the event of the promoters being a well-established entity, the procedure of personal interview can be dispensed with.

Further, as per the provisions of Para 6.6(d) of the Foreign Trade Policy, only projects having a minimum investment of Rs. 1 Crores in plant and machinery can be set up under Export Oriented Unit (EOU) scheme. This condition does not apply to proposals for Handicrafts, Agriculture, Floriculture, Aquaculture, Animal Husbandry, Information Technology, Services, Brass Hardware and Handmade jewellery sectors. The Board of Approval (BOA) can also allow establishment of EOU with a lower investment criteria on a case to case basis.

(b) and (c) Besides publicity by the Government in print and electronic media, a number of open houses, seminars, fairs/exhibitions have been conducted by the Development Commissioners, Chambers of Commerce, Trade associations, Export Promotion Council for EOU and SEZ (EPCES) from time to time to create awareness about the EOU scheme.

**Assistance to handloom weavers**

*134. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom weavers of Pochampalli village near Hyderabad, known for their skills, are in distress today;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to help them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No such reports have been received by the Government of India either from the weavers/handloom organisations of Pochampalli Village or from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has been implementing the

following schemes for the development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers throughout the country, including the State of Andhra Pradesh:

1. Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme
2. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana
3. Handloom Export Scheme
4. Marketing Promotion Programme
5. Integrated Handloom Training Project
6. Mill Gate Price Scheme
7. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
8. Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana
9. Health Insurance Scheme
10. Technology upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF).

The following amount has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the above schemes during last four years:

| Sl. No. | Year | Amount Released (Rs. In lakh) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 2003-04 | 2733.60 |
| 2. | 2004-05 | 1102.10 |
| 3. | 2005-06 | 1411.99 |
| 4. | 2006-07 (till date) | 668.62 |

There are 4,200 handloom weavers in Pochampalli Handloom Cluster. 1,000 weavers of Pochampalli have been covered under basic input component and Rs. 14.19 lakhs have been sanctioned for Pochampalli Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society as Marketing Incentive Component in the last three years under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana; Dyeing Training Programme and Design Development Training Programme have been conducted under Integrated Handloom Training Project; Pochampalli HWCS has been registered under

Handloom mark; 562 weavers have been covered under Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and Rs. 1.84 lakhs have been disbursed to 159 weavers and 644 weavers have been covered under Health Insurance Scheme. In addition, Pochampalli Ikkat has already been registered under the Geographical Indication (GI) Act on 31st December, 2004; 32 weavers have been given Rs. 14.40 lakhs under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana; 722 weavers have been sanctioned old age pension and Rs. 17.80 lakhs have been provided to 89 Pochampalli weavers under Artisan Credit Cards.

**Re-examining of SEZ Scheme**

*135. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are re-examining the policy and the law governing Special Economic Zones;

(b) whether the establishment of SEZs is kept on hold;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry for early implementation of the SEZ scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Number of representations on various issues including land acquisition were placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) which observed that further deliberations are needed before any new approvals for Special Economic Zones (SEZ) are given and decided that no new SEZ approvals be granted till a final view is taken by EGOM.

(d) Miscellaneous approvals required for 63 already notified SEZs are considered by the Government regularly. However, fresh notifications and approvals for setting up SEZs are presently not being issued pending decision by the EGOM.